Today

- Introduction to complements
  - Subcategorization
  - Complements of verbs

Reading: pp. 248-254
Complements

What is a complement?

A phrase that provides information about the head of the phrase that selects it.

(i.e., it ‘completes’ the phrase)

Phrase

Head Complement
Complements

What is a complement?

All categories allow complements…

Jan envied Fran.

Her envy of Fran

Jan is envious of Fran.
Complements

What is a complement?
A phrase that provides information about the head of the phrase that selects it.

We will focus on complements of verbs…
Complements

Verb complements

Opie danced. \(\emptyset\)
Taro broke the vase. NP
Jango says that Boba is smart. S
Fifi talks about dogs. PP
Chui put a book on the desk. NP PP
Complements

Ex: Phrase structure rule

\[ \text{VP} \Rightarrow \text{V} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} (\text{NP}) \ (\text{PP}) \\ (\text{S}) \end{array} \right\} \]

This rule does not tell us which verbs can take which complements…

*Chui *put \[_{\text{NP}} \text{a book}. \]

*Jango *talks \[_{\text{S}} \text{that Boba is smart}. \]

SOLUTION: Subcategorization
Complements

What is Subcategorization?

Phrasal heads subcategorize or select certain categories as their complements

i.e., lexical categories (like Verbs) fall into subcategories according to the complements they take
Complements

Transitive verbs

Have NP complements: $VP \Rightarrow V \ NP$

- want
- cut
- hold
- kill
- buy
Complements

Intransitive verbs

Do not have NP complements: $VP \Rightarrow V$

- yawn
- sneeze
- laugh
- die
- sleep
Complements

Ditransitive verbs

Have two complements: $\text{VP} \Rightarrow \text{V} \ \text{NP} \ \text{PP}$

- put
- give
- send
- show
- introduce
Complements of verbs

Direct Objects
Subjective complements
Objective complements
Prepositional phrase complements
Indirect Objects
Participial complements
Clausal complements
WH-complements
Complements of verbs

Direct Objects

NP complements of transitive verbs that ‘take the action of the verb’

The pirates boarded the ship.
The lightning started a fire.

Note: The subject NP and the direct object NP refer to different things
Complements of verbs

Direct Objects

NOTE: The subject and direct object NPs typically refer to different things...

The pirates boarded the ship. (pirates ≠ ship)

… if they do refer to the same thing, the d.o. must be a reflexive pronoun…

The customers served themselves.

(customers = themselves)
Complements of verbs

Direct Objects

NP complements of transitive verbs that ‘take the action of the verb’

\[
\text{VP} \quad \text{V} \quad \text{NP}
\]
Complements of verbs

Subjective complements

Complements of linking verbs that describe the subject NP, giving it some property or quality

Harry became a doctor.
Sora and I remained friends.
Those kids are nice people.
Elizabeth II is the Queen of England.

The subject and object NPs do refer to same thing
Complements of verbs

Subjective complements
...can also be APs...

Harry became sick.
The chili tastes very spicy.
The music is too loud.

... or PPs
Elizabeth seems in good health.
Joe is out of his mind.
They remained at odds.
Complements of verbs

Subjective complements

Direct objects and NP subjective complements are distinguished semantically, not syntactically

Subj. compl. occur with linking verbs:
am, is, are
become
remain
seem
appear
taste, smell, feel, sound..
Complements of verbs

The pirates…

...boarded the ship…

NP = Direct object complement
Complements of verbs

Direct objects vs. Subjective complements

Diagnostic: Passive movement

Only direct objects can become the subject of a passive sentence.

Pirates boarded the ship.
The ship was boarded by pirates.

Harry became a good teacher.
*A good teacher was become by Harry.
Complements of verbs

Objective complements
Occur after the direct object (d.o.)
Describe or assign a property to the d.o.
Can be NP, AP, PP…

NP: I consider Ann a friend.

D.O. NP

We voted Bill president of the club.

D.O. NP
Complements of verbs

Objective complements
Occur after the direct object (d.o.)
Describe or assign a property to the d.o.
Can be NP, AP, PP…

AP: I consider Ann very friendly.

We voted Bill most likable.
Complements of verbs

Objective complements

Occur after the direct object (d.o.)
Describe or assign a property to the d.o.
Can be NP, AP, PP...

**PP:** I consider Ann out of her mind.

The doctor found Bill in good health.
Complements of verbs

Objective complements

Objective complements:

- **D.O.**
- **ObjCompl**

Diagram:

```
VP
  /   \
V    NP
    /  \
   D.O. (NP, AP, PP)
```

**NP**

**VP**
Complements of verbs

Objective complements

We voted Bill most likable